

Amendment

Docket No. MAT 3H5

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/660,344

REMARKS

By way of this Amendment, claims 1-32 are canceled and new claims 33-52 are pending. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification and drawings. No new matter is added. Favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of various combinations of several different references, including a combination of four references in a rejection. The references include: (1) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0041496 to Smirnov; (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,901,971 to Speas et al.; (3) U.S. Patent No. 6,712,667 to Melzer et al.; (4) U.S. Patent No. 6,224,455 to Laurienzo; and (5) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0086607 to Chan. The cancellation of claims 1-32 in this Amendment renders the rejections in the Final Office Action moot.

Applicants have presented new claims 33-52 in this Amendment. Claims 33, 43 and 49 are independent claims and claims 34-42, 44-48, and 50-52 depend either directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 33-52 are allowable over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to find claims 33-52 to be in condition for allowance. In addition, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call

Amendment

Docket No. MAT 3H5

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/660,344

the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time that may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,

June 5, 2007

/Thomas W. Lynch/
Thomas W. Lynch
Reg. No. 42,820

EDELL, SHAPIRO & FINNAN, LLC
1901 Research Boulevard, Suite 400
Rockville, Maryland 20850-3164
(301) 424-3640